



Bandage Care

Care of Bandages and Splints

Following surgery, your pet will need enforced inactivity for a period of several weeks. Strict exercise restriction means: no running, jumping, hopping on and off furniture, or climbing stairs unassisted. If you have other animals in the house, or children that play with or come in contact with your recovering pet, please keep them separated unless you can fully supervise all interaction. Activity must be limited to very short leash walks for the purpose of your pet going to the bathroom only. The patient should be kept in an enclosed area such as a small yard, dog run, or a small room in the house preferably with solid footing to prevent slipping.

Your pet's splint or bandage requires care and attention. Do not allow your pet to chew or lick the bandage/splint. Use the plastic Elizabethan collar that will be provided. Keep the splint/bandage clean and dry. If it is damp outside or the surface that your pet must walk upon is wet, place a plastic bag around the bandage to keep out all moisture. Do not leave this plastic bag on the bandage all the time or moisture will develop in the bandage!

If the toes are exposed (only the very tips should show) check them daily for evidence of swelling. If more of the toes are exposed outside the bandage, please call. If they become cool, puffy, or painful it is possible that the bandage has slipped, or twisted and may be impairing the circulation of the limb and will need to be changed. Please call our office immediately if this occurs.

If the toes are not exposed, you should try to wiggle your fingers between the layers of bandage, to gently 'squeeze' your pet's foot/toes. Your pet should acknowledge that they have felt your squeeze. If they are unable to feel your squeeze, it may mean that the bandage is impairing feeling and will need to be removed or modified. Again, please notify us immediately.

The bandage/splint may loosen at the top of the leg over time. This is not a problem as long as it is still supporting the limb and you can still check your pet's toes (and they are okay). If skin chafing develops at the top of the splint, you may add some padding or baby powder to the affected area. If the bandage/splint is damp, has exudate or discharge that has created 'strike-through' or is foul smelling, notify us! To have it changed immediately!

With your help at home, your pet will get maximum protection and wear from the bandage/splint. If you have any questions regarding your pet's bandage/splint, please do not hesitate to contact our office immediately. We are available to answer questions 24 hours daily either directly or through our voice mail system. Our staff is always happy to help you. Thank you for letting us give your friend the best care possible.

The plan for your bandage follow-up is as follows:

- Please return in 3-5days to have the bandage evaluated and removed
- Please return in 3-5days to have the bandage evaluated and replaced
- Please return in 7days to have the bandage evaluated and removed
- Please return in 7days to have the bandage evaluated and replaced
- Please return in 14days to have the bandage evaluated and removed
- Please return in 7day increments to have the bandage evaluated and replaced for a total of _____ weeks.

**Please note: bandage removals and reapplication require a high-level of pet compliance, and frequently require a light sedative to both remove and replace them appropriately. Please fast your patient in the morning of a bandage change to allow for this potential consideration.*